In collaboration with the World Alliance for Decentralized Energy (WADE), Wits University is hosting a meeting to discuss the potential for decentralized energy technology to play a much more significant role in the energy future of the Southern African region.

Given your expertise, it is our pleasure to invite you to join us and other energy leaders from the public and private sectors for this exciting dialogue. The meeting will be held on Friday 3 April 2009 at Wits University.

There is no charge to attend, but booking is essential as space is limited.

Efficiency losses inherent in the current power system could be avoided if energy is generated at the point of use. Existing decentralized energy (DE) technologies can increase efficiencies to 80%, reduce delivered energy costs and decrease emissions of CO₂. This could this be a way forward for Southern Africa.

Our fossil fuel resources are finite and produce CO₂ in vast quantities. Last year 225 million tones of CO₂ were emitted by Eskom alone.

Inefficient central power systems, utilizing mainly coal, represent the majority of the world’s existing installed electricity capacity. In South Africa unplanned outages lead to load shedding which causes major disruptions in all sectors of the economy. In South Africa, the net reserve margin has decreased to 8% compared to an internationally accepted margin of 15%. The current price of electricity in SA is unsustainably low and does not reflect the cost of producing, transporting and distributing electricity.

Programme

09h00  Registration
09h20  Welcome + introductions
09h30  The World Alliance for Decentralized Energy (WADE)

David Sweet, Executive Director, WADE
The World Alliance for Decentralized Energy (WADE) is a non-profit research, promotion and advocacy organization representing global companies as well as industry and environmental groups. Since 1997, WADE has worked to accelerate the worldwide deployment of decentralized energy (DE) systems that deliver substantial economic and environmental benefits. WADE’s mission is to increase the market share of DE technologies in the global power mix to create a cost-effective, robust and sustainable electricity system. You can see more about WADE at: www.localpower.org

The Centre of Material and Process Synthesis (COMPS) is a research and engineering solutions group focusing on chemical engineering and minerals processing. Located in the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, COMPS’s objective is to provide the latest cutting edge methodologies and techniques to synthesize, integrate and optimize processes that support sustainable industrial practice. The Centre provides a unique multidisciplinary outcome-focused approach to generate innovative and efficient solutions. COMPS offers consulting and customized training to its industry partners. More information about COMPS is available at: web.wits.ac.za/Academic/Centres/COMPS/

Booking by 31 March is essential as space is limited.

To book your place, please email petra.gaylard@wits.ac.za

If you have any questions, please contact Dr Michaela Vrey at Michaela.vrey@wits.ac.za or +27 11 717 7509.
We look forward to seeing you on 3 April.

Regards,

David Sweet
Executive Director
WADE

Professors David Glasser and
Diane Hildebrandt
Directors: COMPS
Wits University